

**Ministry of Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Municipal Services Office
Central Ontario

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**Ministère des Affaires municipales
et Logement**

Bureau des services aux municipalités
du Centre de l'Ontario

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22 July 2020

Dear CAO and Clerk:

I am writing to inform you of recent changes to the Municipal Act, 2001 to provide municipalities with new permissive authority.

The Government has made changes to expand the authority for municipalities to amend their procedure by-law to provide that electronic participation in open and closed municipal meetings may count towards quorum beyond times when an emergency declaration is in place. Extending the ability for municipalities to hold electronic meetings responds to feedback we have heard from municipalities that the ability to participate electronically in municipal meetings during the past months has been beneficial to continue the important work that municipalities do and has led to increased engagement with members of the public.

In addition, the Government has also passed changes to the legislation to give municipalities the authority to amend their procedure by-law to allow members of council who are unable to attend a meeting to appoint a proxyholder to act on their behalf, subject to certain limitations.

For more information on these amendments, please see the attached information sheets.

Both of these initiatives are optional, and it is up to your municipality to decide whether to provide for electronic participation in meetings and/or proxy appointments and what arrangements are suitable for your municipality.

If you have questions regarding these new provisions, please let me know.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aly N. Alibhai".

Aly N. Alibhai
Regional Director, Municipal Services Office – Central Region
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